

From: Sam Hostetter
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am concerned that the remediation proposed by the Justice Department does not go far enough to end the monopoly Microsoft enjoys in the software industry. Microsoft has a tendency to take an open protocol, such as Kerberos, and "extend" it in such a way as to make competing products unable to use the now closed protocol. For reference, this article appeared on Slasdot.org on March 2, 2000:

<http://slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=00/03/02/0958226>

This is a classic case of Microsoft "embracing, extending, & extinguishing" and open protocol to destroy competition. If Microsoft's API (or Application Programming Interface) were made public, this would go a long way toward ending their strangle hold on the market place. We would then have an opportunity for a truly competitive product to challenge Microsoft's dominance.

Competition in the marketplace drives innovation. Microsoft's "release often, patch often" business model would surely fail in the face of competition from nimble companies releasing superior, more secure products. The American consumer wins.

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"If you design for the exceptions, the rules fall into place."
- Sam Hostetter